

Lady Death®



Hughes
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JENSEN

Lady Death®

"The Odyssey" part 3 (of 4): "Sacrificed"



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The Story So Far

LADY DEATH'S guardian angel, VANDALA, sentenced her to a mystical desert realm overrun by marauding pirates. The ravishing seductress is weakened and proved easy prey for MACABRE and MALADY, powerful twisted twin deities. Macabre fancies himself an artist and intended to lock Lady Death in a crystal sculpture made up of many women. Meanwhile, a corsair followed the trail of Lady Death's angelic energy and, with her, once Macabre & Malady. The resulting collision frees the souls of the women in the sculpture – the women of myth. Again Lady Death is forced into a kind of... this time loyalty. Why? She didn't have time to learn as she is whisked off to another realm. Meanwhile, ASTEROTH, Lucifer's destroyer of destroyers, decimated the jungle realm of Manicore in his search for Lady Death.

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IN THE MYSTICAL REALM OF THE HINDU GODS, LIES A TERRIBLE
AND SORDID PLACE - THE CREMATION GROUNDS.

ITS RULER IS KALI, THE GODDESS OF SACRIFICE AND
REBIRTH. NOT LONG AGO, KALI SENSED SOMETHING AMISS.

IT CAME AS A FAINT HINT IN THE WIND, AND SINCE GREW
INTO SOMETHING FOUL, FOREBODING AND FINAL.

SENSING THE END UPON THEM, AND
KNOWING HER RESPONSIBILITY TO
HER SUBJECTS, KALI HAS MASTERED
A PLAN TO SAVE THEM.

REJOICE
MY FOLLOWERS!
REJOICE!

THE END
IS NEAR. OUR
TIME IS SHORT
BUT FEAR NOT!
YOU SHALL BE
BORN AGAIN!



THE ASSEMBLED SUBJECTS RUSH AND SHOVE, STRANGELY EAGER FOR KALI'S ATTENTION.

COME TO ME! COME TO ME! AND REJOICE!

TAKE THE KALI!
TAKE THE DESIRE!

I ACT
MOTHER
OF ALL!

SPARE
YOURSELF
GIVE YOURSELF
TO ME!

THE END
IS NEAR!


SHRUAK!

AAAAA

REJOICE

THAT
KALI THE DARK
MOTHER!
CONSULTE
US KALI SO WE
MAY BE REBORN AFTER
LIVING THE WAY

PRaise KALI!



ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE CREMATION GROUNDS, AMID THE PANDEMONIUM, RESTS THE TEMPLE OF THE TRINITY

KALI
LOVES
YOU

PREPARE
FOR
SACRIFICE!

THROUGH AN OUTERWORLDLY RIFT,
A RAGGED WANDERER APPEARS.


ONCE LADY DEATH WAS THE QUEEN
OF ALL THAT IS DEAD AND DYING, SHE
COMMANDED HELL ITSELF.

BUT NOW SHE REIGNS OVER LITTLE,
AS SHE'S CEASELESSLY FROM ONE REALM
TO ANOTHER LIKE A LEAF IN THE WIND.



NOW
WHERE
AM I?

SOMEONE
SOMETHING IS
MANIPULATING ME FOR
REASONS UNKNOWN, SENDING
ME TO REALMS, TEACHING
ME LESSONS



LOOK! IT IS
THE WHITE WOMAN -
DEATH

IT IS
A SIGN THE
APOCALYPSE
IS UPON US!

FROM ABOVE
- WARRIORS!



THOUGH
THEY SPEAK IN A
FOREIGN TONGUE,
I UNDERSTAND
THEIR WORDS - AND
THEIR INTENT.



YOU WON'T
FIND ME
EASY PREY!

I'M CONVINCED
ALL MY REALM HOPPING
IS LINKED TO "THE VISION"
I HAD OF THE JUDGMENT ERA
I'M SUPPOSED TO PLAY
SOME ROLE IN
IT ALL

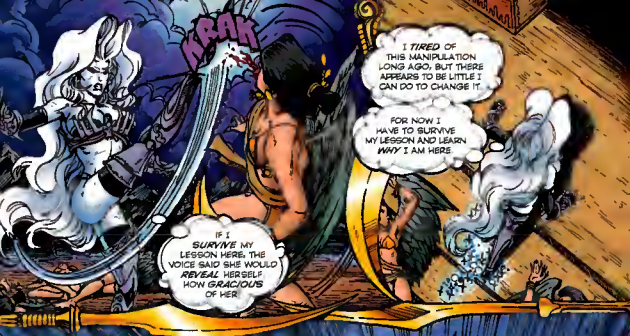
BUT I REFUSE!
I WON'T BE A
CELESTIAL PAWN!

I'M TIRED
OF CONFLICT!

COME ON!

ALL I
WANT IS
PEACE!

WASHOOM



IF I
SURVIVE MY
LESSON HERE, THE
VOICE SAID SHE WOULD
REVEAL HERSELF
HOW GRACIOUS
OF HER

I TIRED OF
THIS MANIPULATION
LONG AGO, BUT THERE
APPEARS TO BE LITTLE I
CAN DO TO CHANGE IT

FOR NOW I
HAVE TO SURVIVE
MY LESSON AND LEARN
WHY I AM HERE



KILL OUR
PEARS HAVE POUND
FORM WE CAN NO
LONGER DENY IT
JUDGMENT DAY
IS HERE!

SPEAK
PLAIN!

DEATH - THE WHITE
WOMAN
IS HERE!



NO NOT
SO SOON! THERE'S
STILL MUCH WORK TO BE
DONE! FOLLOWERS
TO SAVE!

TELL ME -
WHERE IS SHE?

WHERE
IS DEATH?

INSIDE THE TEMPLE OF THE TRINITY...

GANESA, KALI
IS WITHOUT REASON!
THE CREMATION GROUNDS
ARE RIFE WITH DEATH
AND DESTRUCTION!

WHAT DOES
THIS MEAN? WHAT
SAY YOU?

IT IS NOT
FOR ME ALONE
TO DECIDE.

- YOU MUST
RELY ON
YOURSELVES

BRANTIA
AS CREATOR OF
ALL THINGS YOU MUST
SENSE WHAT KALI
IS PERCEIVING

AND VISHNU
WITH YOUR KIND
AND GENTLE MANNER
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND
THAT KALI'S ACTIONS
STEM FROM HER LOVE
OF THE PEOPLE

SHIVA YOU
OF ALL SHOULD
UNDERSTAND HER
MOTIVATIONS

BUT I DO!

SACRIFICE
LEADS TO
REBIRTH

BRANTIA
KALI'S ACTIONS
ARE BUT THE
NATURAL ORDER
OF THINGS

CAN'T YOU
PEEL IT? ARMAGEDDON
COMES!

KALI KNOWS
THIS SHE'S THE MOTHER
OF US ALL

NONSENSE!

THIS REALM
IS EXPERIENCING
ITS OWN
JUDGMENT ERA

A CLUE TO
MY LESSON?

JUDGMENT DAY
WILL COME WHEN OUR
PEOPLE STRAY FROM THE
PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
THIS HAS NOT
OCCURRED

KALI'S LOST
CONTROL!

SHE'S
SACRIFICING
OUR SUBJECTS, SO THEY
MAY BE BORN
ANEW.

SO YOU
HAINE THE
TRINITY
TEMPLE!

SHRIAN

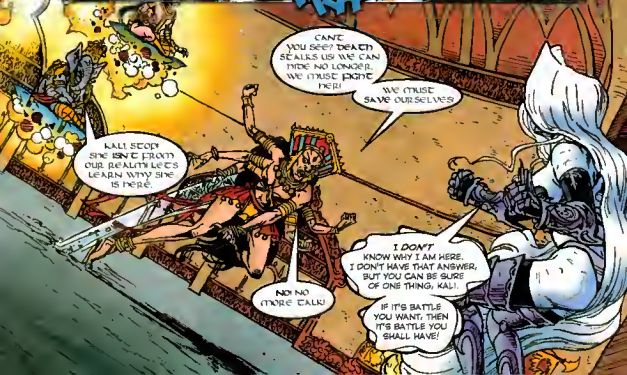


HOW DARE
YOU TOUCH ME,
BEAST! MANY HAVE
DIED FOR LESS!

KALI,
PLEASE! DON'T
BRING CONFLICT
HERE.



FRACK



CAN'T
YOU SEE? DEATH
STALKS US. WE CAN
HIDE NO LONGER.
WE MUST FIGHT
HERE!

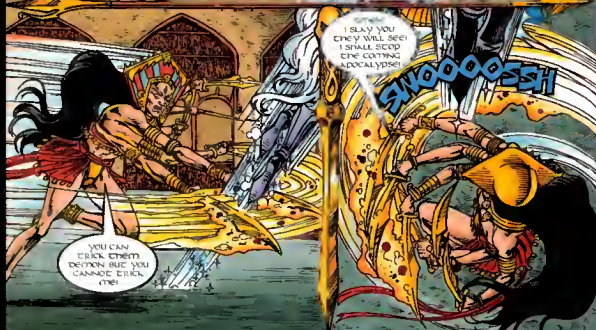
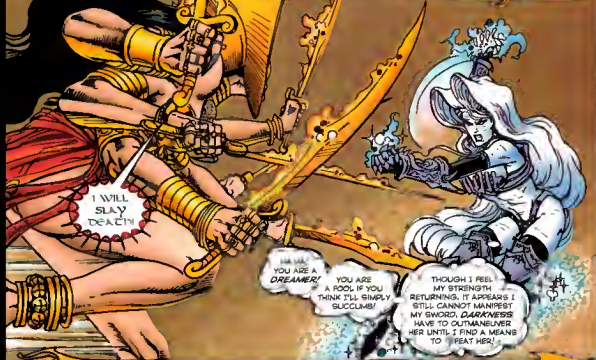
WE MUST
SAVE OURSELVES!

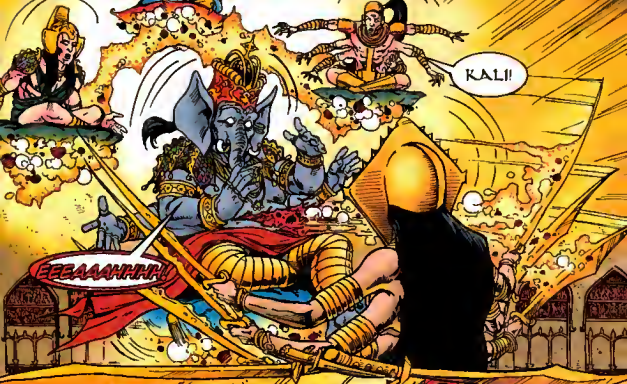
KALI STOP!
SHE ISN'T FROM
OUR REALM! LET'S
LEARN WHY SHE
IS HERE.

NO! NO
MORE TALK!

I DON'T
KNOW WHY I AM HERE.
I DON'T HAVE THAT ANSWER,
BUT YOU CAN BE SURE
OF ONE THING, KALI.

IF IT'S BATTLE
YOU WANT, THEN
IT'S BATTLE YOU
SHALL HAVE!





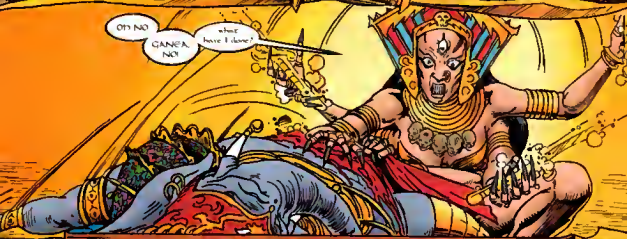
KALI!!

EEEEAAHHH!!

OH NO

GANESHA
NO!

what
have I done?



COULD IT
BE THAT THE
JUDGMENT ERA
WILL AFFECT ALL REALMS?
KALI IS EITHER A MAD GOD
OR SHE PERCEIVES IT'S
COMING WHILE THE
OTHERS DO NOT.



HE'S GONE
THERE IS NO ORDER.
CHAOS BEGINS

YOU'RE WRONG!
I CAN STOP HER!
I CAN SAVE US!



WITH
PLEASURE!

I CAN FEEL
IT COMING - MY
BATTLELUST! IT'S SO
SEDUCTIVE, LIKE A
SECOND NATURE
TO ME

IT WAS EASIER
TO RESIST IT WITH
MY PRECIOUS FOES
BUT KALI IS A
FORMIDABLE
ADVERSARY

I'LL GIVE IN.
LET IT
OVERTAKE ME...

WHERE
ARE YOU
DEATH?

SHOW
YOURSELF!

...JUST
FOR NOW.

YOU SEE ME
AS DEATH!

HOW RIGHT
YOU ARE!

THE OTHERS
THEY DON'T SENSE THAT
THE LAST JUDGMENT
IS COMING, BUT I DO
YOU CANNOT HAVE
US DESTROYER!

THE UNKNOWN IS A COLD AND LONELY DIMENSIONAL PLANE OF UNIMAGINABLE SIZE WHERE ALL THEOLOGIES CLASH

DRIFTING IN ITS VASTNESS IS VANDALA, THE ENTITY BEHIND LADY DEATH'S ODYSSEY.

I tried to FORCE Lady Death to confront her destiny her fateful role in the Judgment Era but she RESISTED the call

I keep going over my actions again and again Have I chosen the right path?

So I've thrust her into different realms I've sought to teach her the ways of my people to READY her for the great challenges to come

Could it be that my intentions are lost on her?

VANDALA WIELDS CONSIDERABLE POWER, FOR A GODDESS SO YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED BUT THE BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY BEARS DOWN ON HER

FOR IN THE END THE FATE OF HER PEOPLE AND ULTIMATELY EVERYTHING THAT EXISTS RESTS SOLIDLY ON HER SHOULDERS





WE WILL
REGRET THIS,
BRATXIA.

IN DUE TIME
WE WILL REGRET
THIS.

NOT
IT'S THE
CRUXITY THEY
CAME TO THIS
TO ME!

I ACT
FOR THE GOOD
OF THE PEOPLE!

YOUR OWN
PEOPLE BETRAY YOU
BECAUSE YOU ARE
INSANE!

THERE'S NO
REASONING WITH HER!
SHE ACTUALLY BELIEVES BY
CANNIBALIZING ME
HER PROBLEM
WILL CEASE!

WHEN I KICKED
LUCIFER INTO HEAVEN'S
GATE, I SHIFTED THE UNIVERSAL
BALANCE OF POWER. MY
ACTIONS HERALDED THE
JUDGMENT ERA.

IS THIS THE
LESSON? THAT THE
JUDGMENT ERA PERVADES
OTHER REALMS? THAT
IT IS ALL
ENCOMPASSING?!

IT MUST BE!

FEERRRRGGGHH!!

SHE'S
RELENTLESS!
CAN'T LET MYSELF
BE DISTRACTED!

LOCKED IN COMBAT, LADY DEATH AND
KALI ARE UNAWARE OF WHAT LIES AHEAD...



...THE ABYSS!



THE "VOICE"
IS TRYING TO
STEER MY SYMPATHIES
TO A UNIVERSAL
CAUSE!

WHAT'S
THAT AHEAD?!
A CLIFF!



SHE'S CRAZED!
DOESN'T SEE. GOT
TO GET AWAY
FROM HER

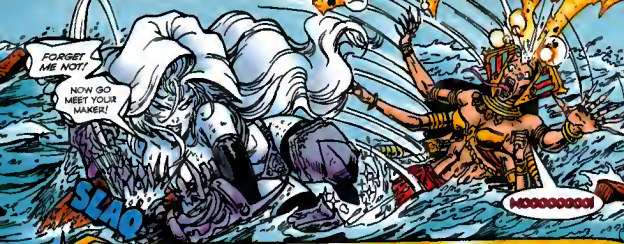
EEEEEE-AAAH!!



SLAMPH

YES KALI
AS YOU FEARED,
I AM THE DARK
EMBRACE!

I AM DEATH!





She shows
such **BRAVERY** in
the face of certain death.
Her fighting spirit
has returned!

THEN YOU SENT
ME TO A DESERT REALM,
WHERE I UNKNOWINGLY SAVED A
CELESTIAL SISTERHOOD
FROM ANOTHER MAD
FALLEN ANGEL.

MY APPARENT
LESSON: THAT IN SERVING
MYSELF, I SERVED ALL!

I WAS **CONVINCED**
YOU WERE FROM HEAVEN -
SENDING ME AS EXECUTIONER
TO ELIMINATE YOUR **UNDESIRABLES**,
BUT YOU DENIED IT
AND SENT ME HERE.

AND NOW
THROUGH KALI, YOU
TRIED TO SHOW ME THE
FAR REACHING EFFECTS
OF THE JUDGMENT ERA
TO MUSTER MY
SYMPATHY!


THAT'S IT,
ISN'T IT?!

WELL I HAVE
NO SYMPATHY! THE JUDGMENT
ERA MEANS NOTHING
TO ME!

C'MON!
WHERE ARE YOU?
I WAS FINALLY FREE FROM
LUCIFER'S STRANGLEHOLD,
AND THEN YOU **ROBBED**
ME OF MY **SOLITUDE**!

AGAINST MY WILL,
YOU SENTENCED ME TO A
FROZEN TUNDRA. THERE I
DEFEATED AGONY, A FALLEN
ANGEL WHO COULDN'T
ESCAPE HER PAST!

I ASSUME
THAT THROUGH HER
PITIFUL EXAMPLE, YOU TRIED
TO SHOW ME THAT I HAD TO GO
BEYOND MY PAST, **EMBRACE**
MY DESTINY IN THE
JUDGMENT ERA.



AND I
REFUSE THE
DESTINY YOU CHOSE
FOR ME!

I'VE HAD
ENOUGH OF THIS
CHARADE! WHOEVER
YOU ARE, SHOW
YOURSELF!


No!
Those weren't
the lessons!

I wanted to teach her
the ways of my people,
her ancestors! When I sent
her to the tundra, it was to learn
HEROISM. In the desert, it was
LOYALTY. And against
Kali, it was BRAVERY.

I didn't CHOOSE Hope's
destiny. I NEVER meant to
manipulate her! I simply wanted
to prepare her for her
pre-ordained FATE!

There is NO
escaping it!

RUNCH



ARE YOU BLIND,
WITCH? CAN'T YOU
SEE I'M BUSY?



BEGONE!

KRAK



I'VE RENOUNCED
MY WARRIOR WAYS,
YOU HEAR ME?

I want... peace!

By the
All-Father's spirit,
what have I done! This is all
wrong! I'm SUPPOSED
to be her Guardian!

What do
I do! I know!
I'll bring her
to me!

Confess
EVERYTHING!



PLACING HER PALM AGAINST HER CLOSED FIST, THE YOUNG GODDESS BEGINS TO SUMMON LADY DEATH. BUT WITHOUT NOTICE, THERE IS A FATAL INTERRUPTION.

She has
no choice! She is the
CHOSEN one!

OH NO!

She'll listen!
She HAS to!

LONG, LONG AGO, A PROPHECY BLEW IN THE WIND. A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY WOULD COME. A JUDGMENT ERA IN HELL — AND BEYOND!

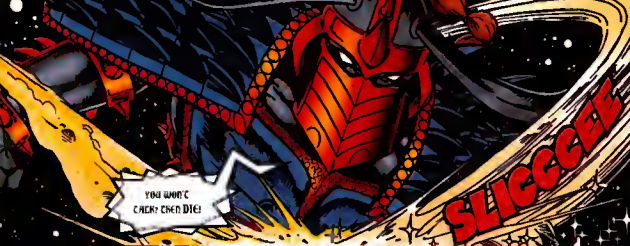
REALIZING THE IMPLICATIONS, LUCIFER, THE FATHER OF ALL EVIL, GAVE HIS MOST LOYAL ARCHDUKE A GRAVE MISSION. HE SAID "TO PRESERVE ALL EVIL, DESTROY MY DESTROYER!"

AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT
ASTEROOTH HAS COME TO DO.

YOU ARE
HIDING EVERYWHERE
FROM ME!

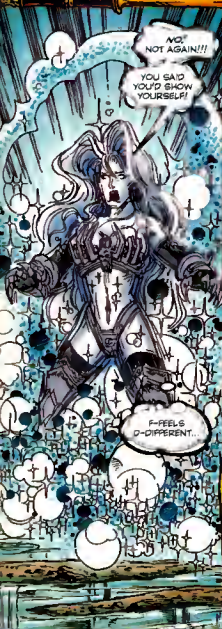
WHERE IS SHE?
DECEITFUL MOTHER!

WHERE IS
THE DESTROYER?



YOU WON'T
CHEN? CHEN DIE!

SLICCCCEE



NO,
NOT AGAIN!!!

YOU SAID
YOU'D SHOW
YOURSELF!

F-FEELS
D-DIFFERENT...

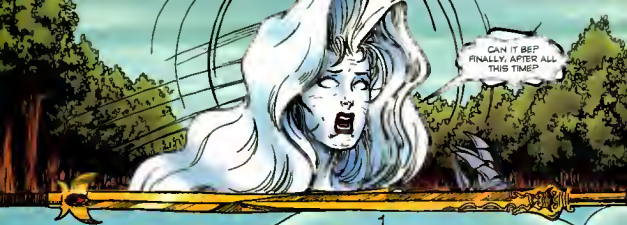


W-WHAT'S
WRONGGGGGG.....

THOUGH VANDALA MEANT TO SUMMON LADY DEATH TO HER
ASTEROOTH'S INTERCESSION HAS VEERED HER COURSE

FSSH

OOOOM



CAN IT BE?
FINALLY, AFTER ALL
THIS TIME?



...PEACEP

NEXT
LADY DEATH'S DESTINY
REVEALED AS SHE FACES -
ASCEROCH,
DESTRUCTOR OF DESTROYERS!



CHAOS!TM

COMICS

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